

**Abstract**

A metal halide lamp having a ceramic discharge vessel with two ends which are closed off by stoppers, and an electrically conductive leadthrough guided through this stopper. An electrode with a shank secured to the leadthrough, which electrode projects into the interior of the discharge vessel. The leadthrough and electrode referred to as an electrode system, comprises two components, which are designed as pins of different diameter, the larger component being a niobium pin and the smaller component, which adjoins it on the inner, discharge side, being a pin made from molybdenum or tungsten which is fitted in a bore in the niobium pin. The ratio of the diameter of the smaller component to that of the Nb pin is between 30 and 65%, and the pin which has been fitted in is secured in the bore by a mechanical pressing operation.